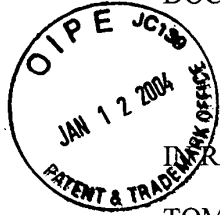


DOCKET NO: 212353US0PCT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
TOMOYASU NAKAMURA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: WONG, L.  
SERIAL NO: 09/926,027 :  
FILED: AUGUST 16, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1761  
FOR: MASKING AGENT :

RECEIVED  
JAN 20 2004  
TC 1700

RECEIVED  
JAN 20 2004  
TC 1700

AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated August 11, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Discussion of the Amendment** begins on page 7 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.